

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

October 27, 2015

Join or File Amicus Brief to Support Collaborative Efforts Between Unions and Public Sector Employers

In its upcoming term, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association, a case with significant implications for all public hospital systems and other public employers. The petitioners in Friedrichs seek to overturn a decades-old body of law that allows public sector unions, like those in the private sector, to negotiate a fair share of fees under their collective bargaining agreements with public sector employers. Accordingly, the petitioners seek to overturn current law that acknowledges and supports the basic democratic principle that every public worker who benefits from collective bargaining may be called upon to pay their fair share for those efforts.

A ruling in the petitioners' favor would dramatically alter California's and other states' well-settled system of labor relations. Unions that represent public workers would have to devote significant resources to stabilizing their memberships, and well-established labor-management relationships would be threatened.

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS), for example, is the second-largest municipal health care system in the country, providing health care services to more than 670,000 patients every year. DHS has been an innovative leader in partnering with its employees' unions on projects that have improved patient

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care and generated efficiencies for the health care system. DHS, its unions and its employees have collaborated to improve patient care and reduce costs. A ruling in petitioners' favor could undermine these and other collaborative efforts between government agencies and their unionized workforces.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Instruct the Interim County Counsel to closely monitor the Friedrichs v. California Teachers' Association case before the United States Supreme Court and file or join an amicus brief to support the existing rights of public employers and their employees' unions to negotiate fair share fee provisions in collective bargaining agreements, and provide periodic written reports to the Board of Supervisors.

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